

**AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording and reproduction apparatus, comprising:
  - a cylinder for recording information to and/or reproducing information from a magnetic tape having a magnetic surface and a non-magnetic surface;
  - a first chassis section having the cylinder provided thereon;
  - a second chassis section movable with respect to the first chassis section, on which a cassette accommodating a supply reel for supplying the magnetic tape is mountable; and
  - at least three tape guide members including a first tape guide member, a second tape guide member and a third tape guide member;
  - wherein:
    - the second chassis section is movable between a first position and a second position;
    - the first position is the position at which the information recording to and/or information reproduction from the magnetic tape is possible;
    - the second position is the position at which the information recording to and/or information reproduction from the magnetic tape is not possible;
    - when the second chassis section is in the first position, the supply reel, the first tape guide member, the second tape guide member, the third tape guide member and the cylinder are arranged in this order, such that only the first tape guide member, the second tape guide member and the third tape guide member guide the magnetic tape between the supply reel and the cylinder; and
    - when the second chassis section is in the first position, the first tape guide member is in contact with the magnetic surface, the second tape guide member is in contact with the non-magnetic surface, and the third tape guide member is in contact with the non-magnetic surface, and the magnetic tape is wound around the second tape guide member over an angle of 100 degrees or greater and 200 degrees or less, and

the magnetic tape is wound around the third tape guide member over an angle of 45 degrees or greater and 135 degrees or less.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim [2] 1, wherein when the second chassis section is in the first position, an output line of the second tape guide member and an input line of the third tape guide member are not in the same plane.

4. (Original) A magnetic recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim 3, wherein:

where a vertical post is a post having a winding contact line with the magnetic tape which is substantially vertical to a tape running direction of the magnetic tape when the second chassis section is in the first position, and a tilted post is a post having a winding contact line with the magnetic tape which is not vertical to the tape running direction of the magnetic tape when the second chassis section is in the first position,

the first tape guide member is a vertical post, the second tape guide member is a tilted post, and the third tape guide member is a vertical post.

5. (Original) A magnetic recording and reproduction apparatus, comprising:

a cylinder for recording information to and/or reproducing information from a magnetic tape having a magnetic surface and a non-magnetic surface;

a first chassis section having the cylinder provided thereon;

a second chassis section movable with respect to the first chassis section, on which a cassette accommodating a supply reel for supplying the magnetic tape is mountable; and

at least three tape guide members including a first tape guide member, a second tape guide member and a third tape guide member;

wherein:

the second chassis section is movable between a first position and a second position;

the first position is the position at which the information recording to and/or information reproduction from the magnetic tape is possible;

the second position is the position at which the information recording to and/or information reproduction from the magnetic tape is not possible;

when the second chassis section is in the first position, the supply reel, the first tape guide member, the second tape guide member, the third tape guide member and the cylinder are arranged in this order, such that only the first tape guide member, the second tape guide member and the third tape guide member guide the magnetic tape between the supply reel and the cylinder;

when the second chassis section is in the first position,  $L_1 \geq 2B$ ,

where B is a width of the magnetic tape, and  $L_1$  is a distance between an output point of the second tape guide member and an input point of the third tape guide member;

the output point of the second tape guide member is an intersection of the output line of the second tape guide member and a center line of the magnetic tape, and

the input point of the third tape guide member is an intersection of the input line of the third tape guide member and the center line of the magnetic tape.

6. (Original) A magnetic recording and reproduction apparatus, according to claim 5, wherein when the second chassis section is in the first position, an output line of the second tape guide member and an input line of the third tape guide member are not in the same plane.

7. (Original) A magnetic recording and reproduction apparatus, according to claim 6, wherein:

when the second chassis section is in the first position,  $L_2 \geq 2B$ ;

where  $L_2$  is a distance between an output point of the supply reel and an input point of the first tape guide member;

the output point of the supply reel is an intersection of the output line of the supply reel and the center line of the magnetic tape; and

the input point of the first tape guide member is an intersection of the input line of the first tape guide member and the center line of the magnetic tape.

8. (Original) A magnetic recording and reproduction apparatus according to claim 7, wherein when the second chassis section is in the first position, an output line of the supply reel and an input line of the first tape guide member are not in the same plane.

9. (Original) A magnetic recording and reproduction apparatus, comprising:  
a cylinder for recording information to and/or reproducing information from a magnetic tape having a magnetic surface and a non-magnetic surface;  
a first chassis section having the cylinder provided thereon;  
a second chassis section movable with respect to the first chassis section, on which a cassette accommodating a supply reel for supplying the magnetic tape is mountable; and

at least three tape guide members including a first tape guide member, a second tape guide member and a third tape guide member;

wherein:

the second chassis section is movable between a first position and a second position;

the first position is the position at which the information recording to and/or information reproduction from the magnetic tape is possible;

the second position is the position at which the information recording to and/or information reproduction from the magnetic tape is not possible;

when the second chassis section is in the first position, the supply reel, the first tape guide member, the second tape guide member, the third tape guide member

and the cylinder are arranged in this order, such that only the first tape guide member, the second tape guide member and the third tape guide member guide the magnetic tape between the supply reel and the cylinder;

when the second chassis section is in the first position, the first tape guide member is in contact with the magnetic surface, the second tape guide member is in contact with the non-magnetic surface, and the third tape guide member is in contact with the non-magnetic surface;

when the second chassis section is in the first position,  $L_1 \geq 2B$ ;

where B is a width of the magnetic tape, and  $L_1$  is a distance between an output point of the second tape guide member and an input point of the third tape guide member;

the output point of the second tape guide member is an intersection of the output line of the second tape guide member and a center line of the magnetic tape;

the input point of the third tape guide member is an intersection of the input line of the third tape guide member and the center line of the magnetic tape; and

when the second chassis is in the first position, the output line of the second tape guide member and the input line of the third tape guide member are not in the same plane.